

From: [REDACTED]
To: Kelly, Joyce
Cc: Fleming, Sheila; [REDACTED]
Subject: Documenting continued 14th indoor air problems and complaint
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 9:34:09 AM

Joyce,

Again, I am writing you as the Division Director, to document that the indoor air in the new offices are still a problem.

I have been trying to unpack from the move in installments, and then work in other floors or the library to break up the time spent on this floor. That seems to have been reasonable and have had less symptoms of throat and sensations in lips and tongue, compared to the first few days when I could not stay here. However, yesterday I spend some time in 14th floor unpacking and then on and off for several hours of meetings in other floors, and after returning to 14th floor after 330 pm or so, notice more odors had the tingling sensation in my tongue and lips again. It did clear up after leaving and being gone for a while. However, it does not seem acceptable or ethical for the EPA to have staff routinely exposed to whatever was used in the furniture or carpeting or painting or glues. It also seems a bit disturbing that EPA is not being more proactive, since just the fact that other staff are not raising the issues does not mean they are not being affected. Several of us became more aware of this problem after getting seriously ill during a similar misguided remodeling disaster in the Seattle office in the mid-1980s, but now I would feel responsible for others who are new here who may not be aware of the potential risks they are taking.

This issue is also impacting the work I can do by affecting what period of time I can work at my desk. There are the inefficiencies of not being able to work around my references and materials. Each time I have to leave floor to work elsewhere is diminishing the rate of work that gets done. This is a serious problem in this understaffed EPA we work in now.

I find this move experience a rather embarrassing and disturbing one since EPA had similar experiences in the mid-1980s and management did not seem to learn much from that disaster. Also OEA staff did suggest that we needed to plan for these potential problems, and again we were ignored. I for one would like to go on record stating that the move team group has done a miserable job of preparing for what the staff needed in the design of the space, in spite of being told, and furthermore, an even worse job in the indoor environmental health issues to date. I understand that the main goal seemed to be to help with the LEED issue, but the actual needs of working staff, such as space, flow of movement, support equipment, and such were not designed for what working staff in this agency need. Note that this complaint does not include the actual movers, who did seem to do a very good job of getting the crates and boxes moved relatively seamlessly.

Please get back to me with your thoughts on this.

(b)

(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)

(b) (6)(b) (6)

Office of Environmental Assessment

USEPA Region 10 (0EA-095)
1200 Sixth Ave., Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

phone: (206) 553- *(b)*
